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PROPOSALS FOR UPGRADING INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY EFFORTS
DIRECTED AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	i
INTRODUCTION.....	1
PROGRESS SINCE 1977.....	1
PRESENT ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT.....	4
INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND INFORMATION GAPS.....	7
Concerns.....	7
Gaps.....	8
CURRENT PRIORITY LEVELS.....	9
COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS.....	10
Collection.....	10
HUMINT.....	10
SIGINT.....	17
IMAGERY.....	20
Analysis.....	21

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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

International terrorism, which is both an intelligence and a counterintelligence problem, poses a complex collection and analytic challenge for the Intelligence Community. The numbers and diversity of terrorist groups, the often sporadic nature and transnational flow of terrorist group activities, and the worldwide dispersion of terrorist group operational areas, makes it an elusive target. Because international terrorism is a government-wide problem, it also poses an equally imposing management challenge--one which has grown steadily as the Washington counterterrorism network, particularly the non-intelligence portion of it, has expanded. [REDACTED]

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The individual departments and agencies of the Intelligence Community are better equipped today to address the problem of international terrorism than they were five years ago when the first study of this type was undertaken. This has been a slow process, however, impeded to a considerable degree both by organizational shifts in the Community and by inertia with regard to the management aspects of the problem, the latter fueled by a lack of firm guidance based on a well-defined national counterterrorism policy. The increased priorities accorded the problem since 1979, as well as increases in the threat itself, have fostered organizational shifts that have tended to focus departmental efforts more on international terrorism and paved the way for the direction of additional collection and analytic resources against the problem. Moreover, a wide-ranging series of additional pertinent enhancements, primarily in the collection arena, are presently either under way or planned. [REDACTED]

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Despite these improvements, the Community's overall capabilities with regard to international terrorism remain limited. This is due in large part to the scope and nature of terrorism itself, but also to some extent to the fragmented approach the Community continues to take to the problem. To be sure, collection and analytic problems abound which additional resources, both manpower and dollars, would alleviate. But there are long-standing questions of coordination of effort--both within and outside the Community--that should be resolved first in order to promote improved effectiveness and better use of existing resources against the terrorism problem. [REDACTED]

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Next 22 Page(s) In Document Denied